



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Public Library

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KPBS & San Diego Public Library Welcome Author Warren St. John *One of Many “One Book, One San Diego” Reading Campaign Activities*

San Diego, CA... Warren St. John, author of the New York Times best-selling book *Outcasts United*, will appear in San Diego on **Wednesday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m.** at the San Diego Hall of Champions in Balboa Park and on **Thursday, February 18 at 1:30 p.m.** at the Point Loma Branch Library, 3701 Voltaire Street, (619-531-1539).

Outcasts United is the story of a refugee soccer team, a remarkable woman coach and a small Southern town turned upside down by the process of refugee resettlement. The book was selected as this year's title for the *One Book, One San Diego* program. Entering its fourth year, *One Book* is designed to have all San Diego read the same book at the same time—creating, in effect, a citywide book club. KPBS and San Diego Public Library are partnering on *One Book* which promotes reading as a source of pleasure and enrichment and engages the community in dialogue promoting tolerance and understanding about differing points of view. This event is free and open to the public.

Outcasts United discusses how the town of Clarkston, Georgia, in the 1990s became a resettlement center for refugees and a modern-day Ellis Island for scores of families from war zones in Liberia, Congo, Sudan, Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. The town also became home to Luma Mufleh, an American-educated Jordanian woman who founded a youth soccer team to help keep Clarkston's boys off the streets. These boys named themselves the “Fugees” -- short for refugees.

Warren St. John has written for the New York Observer, New Yorker, Wired and Slate, in addition to his work as a reporter for the New York Times. His first book, *Rammer Jammer Yellow Hammer: A Journey into the Heart of Fan Mania* was named one of Sports Illustrated's best books of the year, and ranked number one on the Chronicle of Higher Education's list of the best books ever written about collegiate athletics. More information on St. John appearances in San Diego is available at www.sandiegolibrary.org under the *One Book* section.

On January 13, 2010 the San Diego City Council passed a resolution declaring January 2010 “ONE BOOK, ONE SAN DIEGO MONTH” in the City of San Diego. The resolution, presented by Mayor Jerry Sanders and Councilmember Anthony Young, recognized this award winning book along with the San Diego Public Library and partner KPBS for their efforts to “promote literacy, a love of reading, and deeper understanding about the issues that affect our community.”

The library is hosting other presentations and lectures, films, and book discussions throughout the city. One of the lectures will be facilitated by Phillip Gunderson, Ph.D., library staff member and literature professor, on February 22 at 6:30 in the Wangenheim Room, on the third floor of the Central Library, located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego. Other programs of note include:

- ***The Letter*** on Sunday, February 7 at 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., a film about the controversy that erupts when the Mayor of a small town in Maine sends an open letter to newly-arrived Somali refugees telling them not to move to his city;
- ***Refugee 101*** on Wednesday, February 10 at 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. a primer on refugee settlement in the U.S.;
- ***The Lions’s Journey: The Story of Wadie Deddeh*** on Wednesday, February 24 at 6:30 – 8:00, an intimate portrait of retired California Senator and San Diego area Chaldean Iraqi leader, an Iraqi immigrant who rose from poverty to a seat in the California Assembly.

Other *One Book* events are currently scheduled at Central and branch libraries, and other partner organizations in the city, and more will be scheduled during the January-May *One Book* period. Please check www.sandiegolibrary.org or www.kpbs.org/onebook for the most up-to-date schedule.

Outcasts United is widely held in the library’s collection. San Diego Public Library cardholders, who would like to join the discussion as part of *One Book, One San Diego*, can reserve the book through the library catalog. Copies can also be picked up in the Art & Music section of the Central Library, or call 619-236-5894 to have one sent to a San Diego Public Library branch. The library has also created “Book Club in a Bag,” containing 10 copies of *Outcasts United*, discussion guides and resources for book clubs. Through the Library and KBPS websites, KPBS radio and television and community outreach, *One Book, One San Diego* will encourage everyone to take time to read this inspiring and thought provoking book.

Learn about other events and programs at the San Diego Public Library’s Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library’s catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

The City of San Diego Public Library – Your Link to the Past and Gateway to the Future

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